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Beat the Heat with AgLearn's Summer 2016 Newsletter

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Cool Stuff is Happening at AgLearn!

AgLearn's summer 2016 features highlights from our annual workshop, a new and exciting ISA course coming your way this fall, top five courses in interpersonal communications, and a preview of what is to come with our Next Generation LMS.

Next Generation LMS Update

In 2017 AgLearn will be upgrading to a new learning management system (LMS). The LMS is foundational software that is used to provide most of the basic functions of AgLearn. Members of Team AgLearn have been working for several years with other Federal organizations to establish this capability.

It will be ready to be rolled out in 2017.

The new LMS software is:

- **Mobile-friendly** – mobile devices are pervasive in the workplace, but the current LMS software has limitations in this area. With the new LMS software, for example, it responds to the device you are using when you go to the site and optimizes your experience for your device. It also works better across more types of mobile devices.

- **More flexible** – the new software offers more flexibility with a better overall user experience. For example the new software has instant messaging, online dialogue options, and support for embedding videos.

- **Easier to administer** – it will be easier for administrators to set up courses, record completions, and do the other administrative functions that support the user communities.

You will hear more about the new LMS software and it's capabilities as the go live date approaches.

MORE *Coming Soon!*

SUMMER 2016

Adventure ISA: 2017 Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior Training

This course is changing for FY17. Below are some of the highlights of these changes.

Concepts

- The "Sections" of the course are called "Destinations".
  - o Each Destination represents a main topic area.
  - o Each Destination has any number of "Activities" where Activities represents the concept of a "Lesson"
- The underlying gamification piece involves tracking learners progress and reporting on "how many people are currently at the Destination you are at, how many people are ahead and behind you." This underlying technology is referred to as the "Game Engine" and is being added to the CourseAvenue product set.
- A new Player Skin look has been designed. This has a complete "parchment" background with black lettering. The content areas (not shown) will have the option of having a "style" such with varying text and background colors. More to follow on this new players skin as the course completes development.
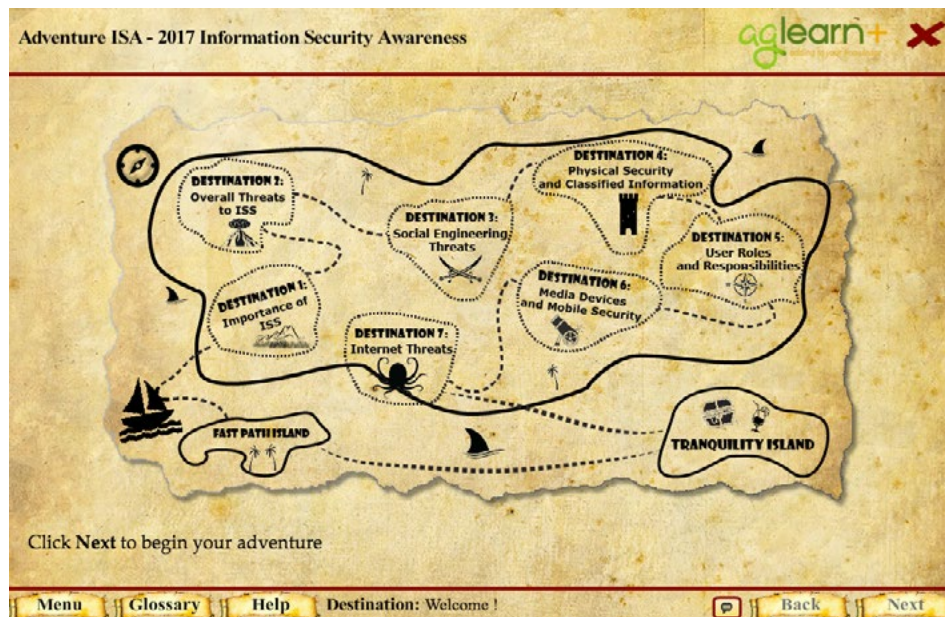
Top Five Selected Courses

Here are the top five courses for the 3rd quarter of FY 2016 (April 1 to June 30). The theme is **Interpersonal Communications.**

1. **Interpersonal Communications: Communicating with Confidence**
2. **Interpersonal Communications: Being Approachable**
3. **Interpersonal Communications: Listening Essentials**
4. **Interpersonal Communications: Communicating Assertively**
5. **Interpersonal Communications: Targeting your message**

If you have not taken them already, go ahead and check them out!

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Here is What Happened at This Year's AgLearn Workshop

AgLearn held its annual workshop May 3rd through 5th in Washington, DC. The three-day event consisted of presentations from USDA representatives and current vendors and newly added panel discussions on various topics. Approximately, 60 participants attended the workshop either in person or via Adobe Connect. Those who could not attend had the opportunity to follow the event on **Twitter**.

This year's highlight included an in depth look into AgLearn's Next Generation (NextGen) learning management system (LMS). Participants had the opportunity to get an inside look into the "look and feel" of our NextGen LMS. This year's workshop added five panel discussions featuring agency representatives engaging in "hot" training topics. This year's topics were:

- Onboarding new users
- Training needs identification and follow-up
- Training Utilization
- Mobile: Why aren't people using it?
- Communication best practices and challenges

Other presentations included representatives from Skillsoft, Rosetta Stone, CourseAvenue, Lynda.com, Virtual University, and Dmason Financial. Participants were presented with AgLearn's annual scorecard and its vision for the future.

We look forward to next year's workshop in the Spring of 2017.

The 2016 Aggie Awards

The 2016 Aggie Awards recognize agencies for excellence in training achievements. The award categories are:

- Discretionary Completions
- Mission Completions
- Mandatory Completions
- Total Activities per user
- Return on Investment
- Value per Fed
- IDP Engagement

RMA received the most Aggie Awards with first place in Discretionary Completions, Total Activities per user, Return on Investment, Value per Fed, and IDP engagement. They received second place in Mission Completions.

2016 AgLearn Strategic Workshop Photo Gallery